

the fact of extreme adversity. His commitment to all individuals, young and old, is a testament to his impeccable character.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in commending Congressman JOHN LEWIS. His accomplishments speak for themselves, yet his humility surpasses all he has done for his district, his country, and the rights of all Americans. It is with a great sense of pride that I refer to Congressman JOHN LEWIS as a colleague and friend.

TAJIKISTAN'S PEACE ACCORD

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 1997

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, after 5 long years, Tajikistan's civil war—the costliest conflict in the former Soviet Union, in terms of casualties—may be over. Negotiations underway since 1994 under U.N. auspices have finally produced a peace accord and the opposing sides have crafted a power-sharing arrangement. Provisions are in place for over 20,000 refugees to return and elections are planned within 12 to 18 months.

Tajik President Imomali Rakhmonov and Saidabdullo Nuri, leader of the United Tajik Opposition [UTO], signed the General Agreement on Peace and National Accord on June 27. Among the accord's key features is the 26-member National Reconciliation Commission, composed of 13 government and 13 opposition representatives, and chaired by Nuri. Until elections are held, the opposition will control at least 30 percent of government portfolios. The opposition's fighters will be integrated into the government's force ministries, and 460 fighters will protect opposition leaders in Dushanbe. On July 10, the Reconciliation Commission came to terms on a general amnesty that will allow members of the UTO to return to Tajikistan.

The general agreement was signed in the Kremlin, testifying to Russia's key mediating role. Moscow had backed Tajikistan's Government against the opposition—a melange of democratic, Islamic, and regional forces—since the war broke out in 1992, but has obviously rethought its priorities and acknowledged that the opposition cannot be defeated militarily, at acceptable cost. Moreover, the advance of the Taliban forces in Afghanistan, which Tajik opposition fighters had used as a staging ground for assaults against Russian and Tajik Government forces, has also convinced Moscow and, apparently, anti-Taliban, Shiite Iran, that Tajikistan must be stabilized in the face of the new threat from Sunni Islamic fundamentalism.

As many analysis have pointed out, however, it is too soon for rejoicing. Though Moscow seems determined to end the conflict, there are several potential spoilers. Foremost among them is Abdumalik Abdullojanov, Tajikistan's former prime minister and chairman of the Party of National Revival. Abdullojanov represents the interests of Leninabad, the country's most populous and wealthy oblast, which had produced Tajikistan's rulers since the 1930's. By contrast, President Rakhmonov and his followers are from Kulyab oblast, whereas Nuri and most of the opposition are affiliated with the

mountainous region of Karotegin. Yet Abdullojanov was not invited to participate in the peace talks or the Reconciliation Commission, and his followers have been given no positions in the coalition government. With no stake in the agreement and no incentive to promote its success, Abdullojanov has every reason to undermine its implementation, and can count on the backing of the population in northern Tajikistan.

Abdullojanov also has the presumed support of Islam Karimov, President of Uzbekistan, which borders Leninabad oblast and is Abdullojanov's base of operations. Karimov did not authorize Uzbekistan's signature as guarantor of the Tajik peace agreement, indicating that Russia and Uzbekistan—though they share deep concerns over Taliban victories in Afghanistan—continue to compete for influence in Tajikistan, and that Tashkent will not play along unless its interests and those of its allies in northern Tajikistan are taken into account.

If the government in Dushanbe does not see these dangers, the opposition does. On June 28, UTO first deputy leader Akbar Turajonzade told Interfax that Dushanbe's unwillingness to include representatives of other parties and movements, specifically mentioning Abdullojanov, was a mistake and could jeopardize prospects for peace.

Apart from Abdullojanov, any number of well-armed military commanders, with strong local bases, could resume hostilities or simply block the establishment of a unified country with a recognized government exercising authority over its entire territory. And even if they could be brought over, the process of sharing government portfolios and dividing the economic pie among all the various movements and factions will require masterful diplomacy.

Still, the peace accord and all its attendant problems are far preferable to the alternative. Tajikistan's population has not known peace since the country became independent. The understanding between the government and the opposition may finally have laid the groundwork for the broader reconciliation that will be needed for enduring stability.

Mr. Speaker, quite apart from the obvious humanitarian imperatives, it is in the United States interests that Tajikistan's peace accord succeed. War-torn Tajikistan lags behind most other New Independent States in building democratic institutions. We should encourage the reconciliation process and urge that the planned elections take place as scheduled and that they be as free and fair as possible. It would be especially useful for IFES, the Washington-based International Foundation for Election Systems, which has done such important work in helping local authorities organize elections all over the world, to be involved with Tajikistan's Central Election Commission. Hopefully, conditions will permit other United States NGO's to begin working with political parties, and gradually help put back on track the democratization in Tajikistan that was so tragically interrupted in 1992.

TRIBUTE TO DR. GEORGE S. ANSELL

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 1997

Mr. SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the exceptional contributions Dr. George Ansell has made for America's higher education system. As the president of the Colorado School of Mines, he has announced his retirement. Dr. Ansell is truly dedicated to the higher education system and the students he serves. Under the leadership of Dr. Ansell, the Colorado School of Mines has emerged as one of the West's premier institutions excelling in engineering, applied science, and earth sciences.

Dr. Ansell has broadened the college's scope to include high academic achievement and quality research, and insisted on seeing each strengthen the other. The Colorado School of Mines was recently recognized by the National Science Foundation for institution-wide reform in undergraduate education in science, mathematics, engineering, and technology. The selected colleges are now considered national models of excellence by the NSF.

Dr. Ansell, born in Akron, OH, in 1934, grew up in New York, attending the elite Bronx High School of Science. He attended Rensselaer Polytechnical Institute on a Naval ROTC scholarship, receiving a bachelor's degree in metallurgical engineering in 1954, and later a master's degree in metallurgical engineering, and a Ph.D. in metallurgical engineering in 1960. He served as an engineering officer in the United States Navy from 1955 to 1958, and physical metallurgist on the Metal Physics Consultant Staff, U.S. Naval Research Laboratory—1957–58. From 1960 to 1984, he was a faculty member at his alma mater, RPI. He became chairman of the Materials Division, RPI—1969–74, dean, School of Engineering, RPI—1974–84, acting dean, School of Management, RPI—1980–81, and finally, president of Colorado School of Mines in 1984.

Dr. Ansell leaves the Colorado School of Mines with a legacy of excellence. His efforts have truly enhanced the institution. His leadership there will be sorely missed. His never-ending quest for academic perfection has truly left its mark.

I thank Dr. Ansell for his contributions, on behalf of the State of Colorado, and I enter into the RECORD a quote by Dr. Ansell that expresses his sentiments about the Colorado School of Mines:

It has been a great privilege for me to have served as president of Colorado School of Mines. My tenure has been filled with exciting challenges and opportunities to promote the vitality of this outstanding institution.

My proudest achievement has been improving the quality of an already outstanding institution by: increasing the number of under-represented minorities from three percent to 14 percent of the undergraduate student body, increasing the number of female students to 25 percent of the entire student body, insuring through fundraising that any student who has the desire and the ability can attend CSM, regardless of his or her financial means, expanding the base of the school's first-rate faculty, and revitalizing the campus physical plant with state of the art facilities. Colorado is fortunate to have